CHASE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by:

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Date: April 3/03

CHASE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Chase Provincial Park encompasses the watershed of Tomias and Carina lakes. Located in a north - south oriented valley, this 36,195 ha of unroaded wilderness includes rich riparian areas and provides high habitat values for lake trout, caribou and moose.

Primary Role
The primary role of the park is to conserve high habitat values for lake trout, caribou and moose, and to contribute to the representation of the Northern Omineca Mountains and Southern Omineca Mountains ecosections.

Secondary Role
The secondary role of the park is to provide wilderness recreation opportunities, including fishing, hunting and hiking.

Known Management Issues	Response
Considerable time was spent at the LRMP reviewing three road options for the Chase Protected Area. After many months, the table decided that the values of the park would be adversely compromised by the establishment of a road through the centre of it. Recently the Mayor of Mackenzie and the Chief of the Tsay Key have indicated a desire to revisit the decision. The possibility of a road bisecting the park would pose a high threat to the ecological integrity of the park and could greatly impact core fisheries and caribou values	Undertake discussions with the Mayor of Mackenzie, the Chief of the Tsay Key, appropriate agencies and LRMP table participants to ensure all parties are aware of the impacts that a road would have on the park.
The lake trout fishery is considered regionally significant due to its unroaded access. Impacts to the fishery resulting from road construction (siltation and over-fishing) were presented as a major concern by fisheries biologists. Air access is also a concern. Lake trout are significant due to the large, unexploited population size. The Environmental Stewardship Division has evaluated this lake as a possible source of brood stock for a lake trout stocking program.	Monitor road construction on adjacent lands and take necessary actions to ensure fishery values in the park are not negatively impacted.

Forest Health - A few incidents of mountain pine beetle were identified at the southern end of Carina Lake in the summer of 2002.	Monitored mountain pine beetle in the park and take appropriate management actions to ensure the caribou habitat values are not compromised.
The Chase caribou herd has been listed by COSEWIC as endangered and is part of the Northern Cariboo Recovery Strategy.	Continue involvement with the recovery options for the Chase caribou herd. Liaise with ongoing researchers to ensure current research information is made available to appropriate staff. Limit recreational use of snowmobiles within the Winter Range during the active period of use by caribou. Implement Ungulate Winter Range Objectives: • Manage Pine Lichen Winter Range so that 45-55% is 0 – 70 years old and 45-55% is 70 – 140 years old. Included within a sustainable supply of 45 to 55% PLWR is a 15% buffer against natural disturbance such as fire or bark beetle outbreaks. Expectation of natural disturbance beyond 15% needs to be considered in long term planning.
Tsay Key First Nations	Recognize traditional uses of hunting, fishing and gathering within the park. Liaise with First Nations to conduct inventory of cultural values.
Management Plan Direction	Commercial recreation guiding and aircraft landing were deferred to a park planning process for resolution. In the interim, an aircraft closure is recommended.

Zoning:

The entirety of Chase Park is zoned Wilderness Recreation to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment and to protect significant wildlife habitat.

CONSERVATION

Representation		
• ecosection	X	Situated in the Northern Omineca Mountains Ecosection. 10.1% of this ecosection is protected. Chase is one of 3 protected areas contributing to the representation of this ecosection. Chase contributes 13.4% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosection (2nd behind Finlay-Russell). Situated in the Southern Omineca Mountains Ecosection. 14.3% of this ecosection is protected. Chase is one of 3 protected areas contributing to the representation of this ecosection. Chase contributes 13.4% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosection (2nd behind Omineca)..
• biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	X	Contributes to the representation of 4 subzone/variants. The most significant is to the ESSFmv4. 8.3% of this variant is protected and Chase contributes 12.9% of the overall protected areas system representation of this variant. BWBSdk1 – 22% protected; Chase contributes 1% ESSFmv3 – 7% protected; Chase contributes 4% SWBmk – 22% protected; Chase contributes 0.6%
Special Feature	X	Large unroaded watershed
Rare/Endangered Values	X	Chase caribou herd is part of the Northern Caribou Recovery Strategy.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	X	Continue involvement with the recovery options for the Chase caribou herd.

RECREATION

Representation:		
• backcountry	X	Outstanding wilderness fishing opportunities.
• destination		n/a
• travel corridor		n/a
• local recreation		n/a
Special Opportunities		
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation Unknown

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the park) for the park and rated them as moderately significant. Four stressors/threats were identified for the park: Fire suppression was rated as moderately significant; and poaching, snowmachine and forest harvesting activity were all rated as low significance.

Relationship to Other Strategies Established through the Mackenzie LRMP.

Area: 36,195 hectares
Date of establishment: April 11, 2001

Zoning Map - Chase Provincial Park

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Wilderness Recreation
Protected Area Boundary

0 2
km

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